

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended. The Amendment is supported by the specification at page 12, line 4 - page 13, line 8, for example. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action rejects under 35 U.S.C. §103 claims 1 and 6-8 over Tachibana et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0053246) in view of Weast et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,931,151); claim 2 over Tachibana in view of Weast and further in view of Meyer et al. ("Color-Defective Vision...", IEEE Article); claim 5 over Tachibana in view of Weast and further in view of Takamura et al. ("Constructing a Uniform Color Space...", IEEE Article); and claims 3 and 4 over Tachibana in view of Weast and further in view of Meyer and Oleari ("Uniform-Scale Chromaticity...", Color Research & Application). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action admits that Tachibana does not disclose that the retrieval unit determines an association between colors in a determined color group, but asserts that Weast discloses the matter missing in Tachibana. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Tachibana and Weast, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a determination unit that determines whether an area of a determined color group has a predetermined reference area or larger based on a histogram of the colors, as recited in claims 1 and 8.

Tachibana discloses extraction units for extracting character data for which color data are included. See paragraph [0012]. Tachibana does not disclose or suggest anything regarding determining whether an area has a predetermined reference area or larger based on a histogram of the colors.

Weast discloses filtering graphics to enable color-blind viewing. At C6/L39-56, Weast discloses that during or before a graphic content is rendered, images, constructs and

shapes are analyzed to determine if there is any content that will be problematic for persons with color blindness. Weast does not disclose or suggest any subject matter relating to determining whether an area has a predetermined reference area or larger based on a histogram of the colors, as recited in claims 1 and 8.

In view of the above, Tachibana and Weast, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1 and 8. Claims 1-7 depend from claim 1. Thus, Tachibana and Weast, individually or in combination, do not disclose the subject matter recited in claims 1-8.

Meyer, Takamura, and Oleari are directed to more theoretical aspects of color-defective vision and do not disclose or suggest anything regarding determining whether an area has a predetermined reference area or larger based on a histogram of the colors, as recited in claims 1 and 8. Thus, Tachibana, Weast, Meyer, Takamura and Oleari, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-8.

Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: June 19, 2008

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